



Afternoon Alert - Thursday, July 13, 2017

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## HEADLINES

### Noon news

NHK gave top play to the hot weather across Japan today. Most commercial networks led with reports that two death-row inmates were executed this morning, saying that the previous execution was in November 2016. TV Asahi gave top play to a report that 21 people were taken to a hospital after a hotel shuttle bus overturned in Fukui this morning.

## INTERNATIONAL

### President Trump urged Japan to purchase fighters

Fuji TV reported at noon that it has learned the details of the bilateral summit between President Trump and Prime Minister Abe held in Hamburg, Germany, saying that the President pointed out the trade imbalance between the U.S. and Japan and strongly called for Japan to purchase defense equipment, including fighters. In response, the premier reportedly explained that Japan is planning to purchase U.S. fighters and Aegis-equipped ships and asked for his understanding. On bilateral auto trade, the network said while President Trump said there are many non-tariff barriers, Abe responded by saying that the matter will be discussed at the economic dialogue between Vice President Pence and Vice Prime Minister Aso. The network speculated that U.S. pressure on Japan will increase over such items as U.S. beef imports.

### Trade to be top priority under Hagerty ambassadorship

Yomiuri Shimbun published an online article by its senior researcher Saki Ouchi, who attended the Independence Day reception held on July 6 at the ambassador's residence, noting that the event was hosted by CDA Hyland due to the prolonged absence of an ambassador. According to the

writer, unnamed senior Japanese diplomats stressed that bilateral relations have not been affected by the departure of Ambassador Kennedy six months ago, with one of them saying: "It is significant that Prime Minister Abe built a relation of trust with President Trump soon after his inauguration. Yes, Ambassador Kennedy had a direct line of communication with President Obama. But now the premier is able to speak with the U.S. leader directly by phone." While mentioning the planned confirmation of William Hagerty as the next ambassador, the journalist quoted an unnamed U.S. Embassy official as saying: "Of course the new ambassador will have his own priorities. Ambassador Kennedy was strongly committed to increasing Japanese students [in the U.S.] and grass-roots exchanges. Under the new ambassador, the Embassy's priorities will probably be trade, trade, and trade."

### **Japan lodges protest after North Korean vessel follows Japanese patrol ship in EEZ**

NHK reported that Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga told a press briefing on Thursday that Japan has lodged a protest with North Korea after a patrol ship of Japan's Fisheries Agency was followed in Japan's EEZ on July 7 by a vessel believed to be from North Korea whose crew was apparently armed. Suga said that the Japanese ship suffered no damage because it immediately left the area to secure its safety and that the GOJ lodged a protest with North Korea through its embassy in Beijing based on the judgment that the vessel in question was from North Korea. Suga refrained from making speculative comments on the North Korean vessel's purpose.

[Japan lodges protest after patrol boat threatened by N. Korean vessel](#) (Kyodo New

### **Interview with UN Under Secretary-General of Disarmament Affairs Nakamitsu**

NHK's "Close-up Gendai +" reported that although former President Obama called for a "world without nuclear weapons," the U.S. under the Trump administration is apparently moving toward strengthening its nuclear power. The program focused on the Nuclear Weapons Convention that was adopted at the UN last week, saying that none of the nuclear powers or nations that are protected under the nuclear umbrella, including Japan, participated. The program reported that non-nuclear powers have been frustrated with the stalled nuclear disarmament under the NPT, which took effect in 1968, and worked hard to achieve the new Nuclear Weapons Convention, which bans the possession and development of nuclear weapons.

The program added, however, that the North Korean nuclear threat is forcing the U.S. to take a harder line, quoting U.S. Permanent Representative to Conference on Disarmament Wood as saying: "[North Korea's ICBM test launch] made it clear that we need to face the reality. North Korea's nuclear weapons are the biggest threat to the international community, and yet the convention does not help resolve the issue at all. A 'feel-good' treaty will not help reduce nuclear weapons."

The program interviewed Izumi Nakamitsu, who was appointed as the new Under-Secretary General of Disarmament Affairs in March. Nakamitsu stressed the significance of adopting the new convention and said that she has been working hard to find "common ground" between the nuclear powers and the non-nuclear powers. She said the treaty is designed in such a way that nuclear powers can also join, as the participation of nuclear powers is crucial. On the U.S. under President Trump, she said that she has been repeatedly conveying the message that the U.S. and Russia have the biggest responsibility in nuclear disarmament. On the fact that Japan, the only nation to have suffered a nuclear attack, did not participate in the treaty, Nakamitsu expressed appreciation to the tremendous efforts made by the hibakusha, and expressed hope that Japan will not just double but triple its efforts toward nuclear disarmament in its own unique way. Nakamitsu stressed that the role of the UN is becoming more important than ever as nations around the world are becoming inward-looking.

- ["Nuclear deterrence helps maintain peace," Ambassador Wood](#) (Mainichi)
- [CCS Suga asks China to comply with tribunal's decision on South China Sea](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- • [Korean-American's letter to AMB Kennedy claiming comfort women falsehood](#) (Sankei)
- [Editorial: N-arms ban treaty lacks viability without nuclear weapon countries](#) (The Japan News)
- [82 nations to be represented in Hiroshima](#) (The Japan News)

## ECONOMY

### **Gov't spokesman says Japanese auto market "fully open"**

Nikkei reported online on press remarks this morning by Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga, who commented on the Mainichi's claim that during his summit with Prime Minister Abe in Germany last week, President Trump took issue with non-tariff barriers in the Japanese automotive market. While acknowledging that the U.S. leader indeed mentioned the bilateral trade imbalance in the meeting, the top government spokesman also said: "The Japanese [auto] market is fully open.... Japan has not set up nontariff barriers to discriminate against foreign vehicles." He stopped short of disclosing the details of the summit, but added that the premier explained to the President that Tokyo is hoping to hold close discussions between Vice President Pence and Deputy Prime Minister Aso to "deepen win-win economic relations."

### **Japan is the world's largest financier of fossil fuel initiatives**

Kyodo took up a report released by Oil Change International, which has found that Japan is the

largest provider among the G20 countries of public financing for fossil fuels at \$16.5 billion annually between 2013 and 2015, compared with \$2.7 billion annually in support of clean energy. The international energy NGO called for Japan and other nations to stop financing fossil fuel projects by 2020 in order to curb global warming and climate change.

- [39 Japanese brands to be protected under Japan-EU EPA](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [First day of “TPP 11” meeting focuses on changes to TPP accord](#) (Sankei)
- [Japan aims to bring U.S. back to TPP](#) (Sankei)
- [TPP talks to focus on bridging divides](#) (The Japan News)
- [METI minister keen on reaching a final agreement on Japan-EU EPA at early date](#) (Mainichi)
- [Editorial: Japan-EU pact can light the way to far broader free trade](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan could lead LNG pricing in Asia](#) (Mainichi)
- [Tax Agency announces protection of 139 alcohol products from EU through GI registration](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japan, EU eye setting up framework to promote data exchange in 2018](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Kawasaki Heavy, Mitsubishi seen landing Dhaka train deals](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan vows to ramp up efforts to export renewable energy technology](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan plans to export renewable energy tech to emerging economies](#) (Kyodo News)

<b>POLITICS</b>
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- [Prime minister’s schedule on July 12](#) (Nikkei)
- [Matsui says “Abe should attend budget committee meetings”](#) (Yomiuri)
- [LDP factions keep varying distances from PM Abe after Tokyo election debacle](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Distance with Abe: Suga in the midst of post-Abe race](#) (Nikkei)

- [Editorial: Democratic Party is clueless as to its lack of public support](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Cartoon: Abe's sagging support rate](#) (Asahi)
- [Vice Foreign Minister's wife calls police after marital spat](#) (Shukan Shincho)

#### OPINION POLLS

- [Cabinet support rate drops by 30 points over five months, Yomiuri poll](#) (Yomiuri)
- [82% say Japan needs political party able to rival LDP, Asahi poll](#) (Asahi)

#### SECURITY

#### **No carrier-borne planes to stop in Atsugi on way to Iwo Island for training**

Tokyo Shimbun reported on a meeting held on Wednesday between Defense Ministry officials and their counterparts from the Kanagawa prefectural government and the municipalities around NAF Atsugi. The MOD officials explained during the meeting that according to the U.S. military, the airplanes belonging to the USS Ronald Reagan that will be relocated to MCAS Iwakuni will fly direct to Iwo Island for field carrier landing practice without stopping at the Navy installation in Kanagawa. The local governments had been concerned that the carrier-borne aircraft would fly to the Pacific island via the Atsugi base.

- [New center to promote info-sharing on cyber-attacks](#) (The Japan News)
- [Japan ranks 12th in UN cybersecurity survey](#) (Mainichi)
- [MSDF increasingly engaged in South China Sea affairs](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [USS Fitzgerald moved to dock at Yokosuka](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)



#### **American JET in Okinawa named “Kizuna Ambassador”**

Okinawa Times wrote that Aaron Crawford, an American JET living on Tokashiki Island in Okinawa, received on Monday from Internal Affairs Minister Takaichi a letter of appointment as a “JET Kizuna Ambassador.” Recipients of this title are expected to promote friendship between their home countries and their host communities in Japan even after they complete their assignments as JETs. Crawford taught English to children at kindergartens and elementary and junior high schools on the island as an assistant language teacher for four years from 2013 and worked as a coordinator for

international relations for the village government for one year. Crawford told the paper that he has fond memories of the island and its people, and will never forget them.

- [Okinawa residents criticize use of new helipads at Northern Training Area](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)
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